



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

4th July 1951.

To the Chairman and Members  
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

Apart from the increased incidence of poliomyelitis in your area, referred to in a special report presented to you at the beginning of this year, there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease and the health of the district during the year remained good.

As I write this report I have before me the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for your district for the year 1900. I note that during that year 7 cases of typhoid fever occurred in Sturminster Newton. No comment is made with regard to these cases, and therefore I presume no material significance was attached to their occurrence. It is interesting to speculate what investigation and report would be called for had these cases occurred during 1950.

I am indebted to Mr. Dean and Mr. Hodson, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year and for their assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year:

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*Leslie Pearson.*

Medical Officer of Health.



STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 0.

- A. Area - 45,364 acres.  
Rateable Value - £43,057.  
Production of a penny rate - £170.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9037

LIVE BIRTHS.

Comparative figures for  
(a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales.

	Male.	Female.			
Total	92	73	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 18.2		
Legitimate	86	68			
Illegitimate	6	5		15.6	15.8

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	Nil	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = Nil	0.2	0.3
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DEATHS

Total	63	86	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 16.4	13.4	11.6
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Deaths in infants under one year	6	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 42.4	24.2	29.8
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Deaths from Tuberculosis - 4

Deaths from maternal causes - Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

As reported last year, under the National Health Service Act 1946, the personal health services, the Ambulance Service, and the Laboratory Services, are provided by the Ministry of Health or County Council.

I do not think that it is necessary to draw your attention to any matters concerned with these services, with the exception that I should like to record that the County Council's Domestic Help Service has been operating in your district since the 1st April.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

Senior Sanitary Inspector - J.H. Dean, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,  
who also carries out the duties of Waterworks and Sewerage Engineer.  
Sanitary Inspector - F. Hodson, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.  
This officer is engaged full time on sanitary duties.

Clerical staff - one whole-time clerk.





## 2. WATER SUPPLY.

### (a) Quantity.

Total consumption from Council's own sources	122,231,000
<u>Deduct</u> bulk supplies to -	
1. Dorchester R.D.C. (a) Buckland Newton	3,098,000
(b) Brockhampton	858,000
2. Sherborne R.D.C. (a) Holwell and	
Bishops Caundle	7,869,000
	<u>11,825,000</u>
	110,406,000
<u>Add</u> bulk supply from Wincanton R.D.C.	<u>20,178,000</u>
<u>Nett District Consumption</u>	130,584,000
Total water supplies afforded by meter	54,730,000
Total unmetered water supplied (mainly domestic)	<u>75,854,000</u>

On population supplied of approximately 8,250, average per head per day = 25 gallons.

Reliable yields. The Council's own sources of water supply are from springs from greensand outcrops, and actual gaugings give the following reliable yields:-

Cookwell, Okeford Fitzpaine	150,000 g.p.d.
Duntish, Buckland Newton	96,000 g.p.d.
Ibberton	26,000 g.p.d.
Shillingstone	26,000 g.p.d.
Total -	<u>298,000 g.p.d.</u>

Some water shortage was again experienced during a period of about three months in the fall of the year, but the situation was not quite so serious as in the previous year.

In view of the development of sewerage schemes, increased consumption of water and also the new supplies afforded, it is urgently hoped that water will be available from the new source at Alton Pancras before the period of shortage in 1951.

### (b) Quality.

Samples of water from all the sources were submitted monthly for bacteriological examination, and in addition frequent check testing of the chlorinated water was carried out to ascertain the presence of free chlorine. The bacteriological results were generally satisfactory.

<u>Samples.</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chlorinated.</u>	<u>Unchlorinated.</u>
(1) <u>Public.</u>	Duntish	12	12
	Cookwell	14	16
	Ibberton	12	13
	Shillingstone	12	22
	Wincanton	4	-
(2) <u>Private.</u>	Well, Salisbury Street		1
	Hod Cottage		1
	Stocpleton Cottages		4
			<u>6</u>
	<u>Chemical.</u>		
	Shillingstone Spring	- 1	
	Cookwell spring	- 1	
	Ibberton spring	- 1	

### (c) New Works.

One small main extension was carried out to serve properties in Salisbury Street, Marnhull, apart from several main extensions into new housing sites.

<u>New Connections.</u>	(i) domestic use	35
	(ii) agricultural use	14
	(iii) other purposes	<u>20</u>



(d) Distribution.

PARISH	Council Mains			Private Mains			Wells etc.	
	In	Out	Public Standpipe.	In	Out	Public Standpipe.	In	Out
Child Okford	101	29	-	4	-	-	1	26
Fifehead Magdalen	26	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
Fifehead Neville	33	6	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hazelbury Bryan	111	22	-	1	-	-	1	12
Hanford	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hammoon	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinton St. Mary	7	-	-	35	14	-	-	2
Ibberton	19	6	2	1	-	4	2	-
Lydlinch	54	22	-	-	-	-	1	2
Manston	31	11	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mappowder	37	-	2	-	-	-	1	7
Marnhull	231	47	17	5	-	-	2	31
Okford Fitzpaine	96	8	20	7	-	-	-	-
Pulham	31	7	4	-	-	-	-	-
Stalbridge	250	35	22	-	-	-	-	5
Shillingstone	118	18	-	4	-	-	4	17
Stoke Wake	-	-	-	12	4	-	-	-
Stourton Caundle	45	1	14	2	-	-	1	7
Sturminster Newton	380	31	28	-	-	-	1	3
Woolland	-	-	-	16	3	1	-	7
Wootton Glanvilles	36	3	-	13	-	-	-	2
Total -	1629	252	109	104	21	5	16	125
Priors Down	36							
Council Houses	804							
Total -	2469	252	109	104	21	5	16	125

(e) Proposed scheme for additional water supply. Considerable progress has been made on the scheme for obtaining water from new boreholes at Alton Pancras, and it is anticipated that the Council will be able to pump water as far as Buckland Newton by August 1951.

Steps are being taken to obtain materials and invite tenders for subsequent sections of the new water scheme.

### 3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Stalbridge. These works are satisfactory except for the inadequacy of sludge drying beds. Improvements were carried out to the weirs on the settlement and humus tanks and have resulted in a great improvement in samples of the final effluent.

Hazelbury Bryan. These works are satisfactory.

Shillingstone. Contract No. 1 for sewerage in Shillingstone has been completed and Contract No. 2 for the Sewage Works has also been completed. A considerable number of connections have been made to the sewers to date and work of this character is proceeding as rapidly as labour and materials permit.

Okford Fitzpaine. Contract No. 3 for sewerage to Okford Fitzpaine is approximately two thirds completed, and Contract No. 4 for sewerage to a portion of Child Okford has been commenced.

Marnhull. No further extension to this scheme has been commenced, and the Sewage Works are functioning satisfactorily.

Stourton Caundle. The whole contract for sewerage and works of sewage disposal have been completed and drainage connections are still proceeding.

Manston. Both the sewers and Sewage Disposal Works have been completed, and connections made.



Glanvilles Wootton and Mappowder. The scheme for sewers and sewage disposal works in Glanvilles Wootton is almost completed, and the scheme for Mappowder has commenced.

Samples of effluent. Samples from all Sewage Works have been regularly taken at three monthly intervals and all the results have been satisfactory.

Approved schemes. The following sewerage schemes have been approved by the Ministry of Health but have not yet been commenced:-

- (a) Child Okeford Contract No. 5.
- (b) Marnhull and Hinton St. Mary - remaining part of parishes, and extension of sewage disposal works.
- (c) Sturminster Newton - sewerage and sewage disposal works.
- (d) Hazelbury Bryan - remaining part of parish and extension of sewage disposal works.

Proposed scheme. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal is being prepared for the Kings Stagg area of Lydlinch, but has not yet been before the Ministry of Health, but is being submitted as a matter of urgency in view of existing serious drainage nuisances.

Drainage works and conversion of E.Cs. to W.Cs. Considerable progress has been made by the Council in the linking up of houses to the sewer, and also the conversion of E.Cs. to W.Cs. under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. It has been evident during the year that there has been a considerable increase in the quantity of refuse collected, and is probably due to the building programme and also to some extent a change in the habits of the population.

During the year the Council obtained a 24.5 cubic yard rear loading refuse vehicle in place of the existing Fordson side loading vehicle.

Some difficulty has been experienced in connection with the availability of a refuse tip and a considerable number of negotiations and enquiries regarding new sites have been carried out. The Council is in the position of having available space at their existing tip at Whiteway, Marnhull until August 1951.

(b) Salvage. The following materials were salvaged and sold during the year:-

	Weight.				Value.		
	t.	c.	q.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Baled paper	23.	13.	0.	0.	97.	12.	7.
Newspaper	3.	3.	0.	0.	16.	16.	0.
Books	3.	3.	3.	0.	17.	16.	6.
Bones		15.	3.	0.	4.	10.	11.
Scrap Iron	2.	0.	0.	0.	4.	0.	0.
Mixed metal		2.	0.	7.	8.	13.	3.
Bags		10.	3.	26.		19.	0.
Rags		18.	0.	9.	8.	18.	2.
	34.	12.	2.	14.	£159.	6.	5.

It is to be regretted that at one stage there was no market for salvaged waste paper and that the Council were left in a position of salvaging waste paper with no assured market. Subsequently when the national need for paper salvage became as important as ever, the paper was not forthcoming from the public as in the past. Fortunately, at no time did the Council completely cease to collect waste paper, but the quantity now collected would appear to be less than the potential amount available. This is unfortunate not only because the paper is urgently required for national needs, but the collection and disposal of paper is a very real means of reducing the rate burden on the householder.



(c) Cesspool Emptying. The cesspool emptying service operated under Section 74 of the Public Health Act 1936 has done extremely good work in spite of the extremely bad weather, and has undoubtedly reduced the number of nuisances, particularly on Council housing estates.

Consideration is being given to a scheme for offering these facilities to the public on a basis of annual contracts at a reduced fee.

The cesspool emptier is becoming more valuable also in connection with the maintenance of small Sewage Disposal Works controlled by the Council in the smaller villages and also on housing estates.

Number of cesspools emptied during the year = 514.

#### 5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

On several occasions pollution of a tributary of the Caundle Brook has occurred by foul drainage from the Knackers Yard at Stourton Caundle. Following the service of a statutory notice, new drainage has been installed and the owner has entered into a contract with the Council for regular emptying of the two cesspools.

Following the installation of new plant at the Saw Mills, Stalbridge, (Messrs. Turner Bros.) the discharge of gas producer effluent to the stream nearby has been discontinued.

#### 6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	22
No. of defects found	3
No. of notices served	2
No. of notices complied with	2

#### 7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	24	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	26	21	1
(iii) other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	26	39	6
Total -	68	84	10

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>	
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness	3	3
Sanitary conveniences:-		
(a) insufficient	3	3
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	3
Total -	10	9

Number of outworkers = 111.

#### 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been called for or taken during the year.

#### 9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access.

#### 10. CAMPING SITES.

Number of sites licensed = 1, accommodating 3 caravans.

There are also 5 licences in force permitting individual caravans to be stationed on specified sites.

#### 11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The following infestations have been dealt with during the year:-

<u>Ants.</u>	<u>Cockroaches.</u>	<u>Crickets.</u>	<u>Flies.</u>	<u>Fleas.</u>	<u>Mosquitos.</u>
1	3	1	7	9	1

D.D.T. and Gammexane preparations have been used in powder and liquid form with satisfactory results.

#### 12. RATS AND MICE.

The scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee has continued to work satisfactorily during the year. It is proposed to continue to use this Joint Committee in connection with giving effect to the relevant sections of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The following infestations have been reported to the Rodent Officer and dealt with during the year:-

<u>Rats.</u>	<u>Mice.</u>
42	9

In addition, the Rodent Officer has carried out the treatment of the Council's sewers at Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton, and the Sewage Works site at Stalbridge. The refuse dump at Whiteway Lane, Marnhull has been treated regularly during the year.

#### 13. RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 - 1922.

No action was found necessary.

#### 14. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

No. of inspections of schools	12
No. of inspections of school canteens	23

There are now only 3 school canteens in this district, at Sturminster Newton, Marnhull and Hazelbury Bryan, and the general standard of hygiene at these has been consistently good throughout the year.

W.Cs. have been installed at Marnhull C. of E. School, and connected to the Council's new sewer. There will shortly be a sewer available to the school at Wootton Glenvilles and one is available at Shillingstone. Schemes for converting existing closets to W.Cs. are expected in each case.

#### 15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to initiate action under Section 47 of the above-mentioned Act in respect of any case in the district during the year.

#### 16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during -	
(a) the year for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	523
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	697



(2) (1)	No. of informal notices served	16
(2) (2)	No. of informal notices complied with	16
(2) (3)	No. of statutory notices served	3
(2) (4)	No. of statutory notices complied with	3

(3) (1)	No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	7
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(2) Action taken by the local authority in respect to such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made Nil

(b) Undertakings accepted for -

(i) Closure 2

(ii) re-conditioning 4

(c) Other action - A Public enquiry was held on the 4th April into 8 Clearance Areas which had been made by the Council. 28 houses were involved. 7 of the areas were confirmed by the Ministry of Health, a scheme of reconditioning being accepted for the remaining area. Since the enquiry 3 of the families have been re-housed and four houses have been demolished.

In addition, 10 cottages have been re-conditioned as a result of informal action, and 4 on the initiative of the owners. Improvements calling for byelaw approval have been carried out at 12 cottages as a result of informal action, and at 21 on the owner's initiative.

#### (4) Overcrowding.

(1)	No. of cases of 'statutory overcrowding' found and reported to Local Authority	1
(2)	No. of cases of overcrowding abated	4
(3)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

4 Temporary occupation in excess of the permitted number was permitted in one case only until the family concerned could be re-housed early in 1951.

Total No. of working class houses in the district 2246

Active action by the Council in respect of unfit dwellings has undoubtedly lead to an increase in satisfactory housing accommodation in the district, as a result of the reconditioning and improvement of dwellings which were only otherwise fit for demolition. In respect to approximately half of the dwellings in which action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, undertakings to make the houses in all respects fit were accepted.

#### Rural Housing Survey.

No. inspected (with classification)	Preliminary.	Detailed
Category 1	981	53
" 2	705	481
" 3		
" 4	315	308
" 5	245	311
Total -	2246	1153

#### Requisitioned premises etc.

No. of houses held under requisition at end of year	42
No. of houses on which Demolition Orders or Closing Orders had been made, occupied under licence at end of year	18



(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	<u>Temporary</u> <u>Prefab.</u>	<u>Swedish</u> <u>Timber.</u>	<u>Traditional</u> <u>Type.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
(a) During 1950	-	-	99	-
(b) Post-war	35	20	450	36 (converted huts).

Total No. of families re-housed during the year 201

Housing Act 1949.

Two schemes for the improvement of dwellings and two schemes for the conversion of buildings into dwellings have been approved by the Council and by the Ministry of Health.

During the year 13 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 30 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Rent Charges.

There appears to be an increasing tendency of applicants for Council houses having to refuse a house when offered to them on account of the higher rents which are now being charged, and an increase in the number of occupants living in the newer Council houses who seek transfer to older and lower rented houses.

If this tendency continues, the whole principal of housing by local authorities will be negatived, for those with large families living in sub-standard houses will be the first to have to refuse a Council house when offered to them, and it is for such families that local authorities were first empowered to provide houses.

It is not difficult to appreciate that a large family who are possibly somewhat unthrifty and who are living under very unsatisfactory conditions cannot accept the offer of a highly rented Council house. Less obvious is the problem of the thrifty black-coated (or semi black-coated) worker in the lower income group who is anxious to maintain as decent a standard as possible for his wife and family, but who finds a high rent takes an undue proportion of his pay packet. If such an applicant accepts a highly rented house some deprivations must be endured. It is the wife and mother who first goes hungry.

Bearing in mind that the new houses now provided are to last for at least 60 years, I do not feel that the standard of new houses, as laid down by the Ministry of Health, can reasonably be reduced to an appreciable extent.

It is argued by some that the persons in the higher income groups should not be allowed to occupy subsidized houses, at the same time we see that there are those in the lowest income groups who are often unable to afford to live in these houses.

It would appear that consideration of a differential **rent** scheme might prove necessary to overcome this anomaly.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Byelaws. Byelaws in respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the Open Air, were adopted by the Council during the year.

## 1. Milk.

### Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

(a) No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949	Nil
(b) No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949	2
(c) No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	6
(d) No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	6
(e) No. of inspections of dairies	39

## Samples.

Number of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

Tuberculin Tested	23	
Accredited	5	
Pasteurised	20	
Non-designated	33	Total 81

## 2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	101
No. of inspections made during the year	116
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938	34
No. of such premises registered in respect to -	
(a) Ice-cream	21
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	11
(c) Fried fish	3
No. of inspections made during the year	59
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	23

Results:-	Grade 1	-	16
	Grade 2	-	3
	Grade 3	-	2
	Grade 4	-	2
			<u>23</u>

## Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. There are at present 4 private slaughterhouses still licensed in the district, but these are not at present in use. One Knackers yard is also licensed, and is in constant use.

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned:-

Tins or jars of food	273
Meat (imported & home killed)	780 lbs. 6 ozs.
Cheese	17½ lbs.
Ham	19 lbs.
Dates	31 lbs.
Camembert cheese	7 boxes.



# 18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
 No. of disinfections carried out \_\_\_\_\_ 1

# 19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) \_\_\_\_\_ 2116  
 Total No. of Informal notices served \_\_\_\_\_ 38  
 Total No. of Informal notices complied with \_\_\_\_\_ 78  
 Total No. of Statutory notices served \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
 Total No. of Statutory notices complied with \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
 No. of prosecutions \_\_\_\_\_ Nil

# D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u> <u>(Corrected Notifications)</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Lobar & Acute Pneumonia	4	-
Whooping cough	38	-
Erysipelas	2	-
Measles	12	-
Poliomyelitis	4	2
Scarlet fever	1	-

# Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases Notified</u>		<u>Deaths</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
6	2	2	1

6 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis compare with 2 cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the preceding year.

Food Poisoning - 3 cases contracted outside the district.

# E. CARE OF AGED PERSONS.

Following the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 11/50 the Chairman of your Council called an inaugural meeting which established the Sturminster Voluntary Old Peoples Welfare Committee. This Committee is composed of a representative from each of the 21 parishes in the district, and meets quarterly. An Executive Committee of the principal Committee meets monthly. The purposes of the Committee are to co-ordinate and review the provision made by the voluntary and statutory agencies working toward the welfare of aged persons within the district. The Parish Representatives have assumed the responsibility of arranging for the visitation in their homes of the aged persons within their locality, and bringing to the notice of the Committee those in respect to whom help or assistance may be required. Arising out of the activities of the Committee, an Old Peoples Club was started by the British Red Cross in Sturminster Newton and meets fortnightly.

The Committee and the Parish Representatives have proved to be a useful consultative body to whom the Council could refer for information and opinions in connection with proposals they may have in respect to making satisfactory housing provision for aged persons in their district.

As a Council you have given special consideration to the housing of aged persons, and out of a total of 814 post-war houses completed to the end of the year, 84 have been provided specifically for the housing of aged persons. Some in the form of one or two bedroomed bungalows or flats, the remainder in the form of two blocks of bungalow units, each provided with communal hot water facilities and central heating, and with a Warden in charge of the unit, whose services are available to assist the occupants of the flats.

NOEL F. PEARSON  
 Medical Officer of Health.